

THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH EDITOR
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RATH VS. ROBERTSON.

If valid charges made by Mr. Rath bore against A. G. M. Robertson's efficiency as a lawyer or his rectitude as a possible judge, this paper would oppose his elevation to the Federal bench. But it happens that Mr. Robertson is a lawyer of ability and that his record as a district judge a decade or more ago was honorable. We do not like his ways of politics nor his declaration against the "best man propaganda" as made in the Star of September 11th or 15th, of last year—the date is not clearly remembered; but the Advertiser has not cared to use these circumstances as a reason why the judicial preference of Mr. Robertson's brother lawyers should be overborne. Besides, this paper is too clearly devoted to the home rule principle in Federal appointments to measure every local nominee by standards of perfection which human nature can not attain. The bar decided that Attorney Robertson would make an acceptable judge; the Governor acquiesced; why should the merely political critics of Mr. Robertson be captious?

Mr. Rath, however, has chosen to judge Mr. Robertson by tests which Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Daniel Webster, Grover Cleveland and other illustrious men might not have been able to meet; tests in no way affecting their public and official usefulness. Mr. Morley in his Life of Gladstone discusses this general subject, saying that in his younger days he had judged public qualities more or less by private lives, but confessing that, with age and experience, he had come to regard human character as a mosaic, in which a great deal of good material is mixed in with the bad. It did not pay, he thought, in measuring the public man, to be too fustian about the private man. That this is the attitude of the great public may be judged by many instances. In the Presidential campaign of 1884 the chances were with Mr. Blaine until his friends raised an outcry against the private life of Mr. Cleveland, whereupon a vast revulsion of feeling, in favor of the latter, made his election possible for the first time. A similar attack, with quite as much justification, as it seemed, was prepared against Mr. Blaine, and even reached the public, but Mr. Cleveland put a heavy foot upon it and saved his campaign from a fatal blunder.

It may be said in fairness to Mr. Robertson that Mr. Rath is dealing with matters in the past, not in the present; and that the candidate for Federal Judge, in his existing status as a private individual, has done nothing to invite criticism. Why not regard him as having reformed? There is excellent precedent among the Christian exemplars of this or any other community for taking more joy in the one sinner who repents than in the ninety and nine who have no visible occasion to.

LIGHT ON LIVING EXPENSES.

Mr. Makino is authority for the statement that it costs \$300 a day to feed the 2000 strikers, an average of fifteen cents a day per capita, or \$4.50 a month.

If this is the case, what are laborers who are getting an average of \$23 a month complaining about?—if they are complaining. They have their shelter, fuel and medical attendance free, and when the cash for their minimum living expenses is paid out they have \$17 left, or about 75 per cent. of their income. That is why the Japanese labor colony is able to send millions of dollars a year to Japan.

We accept Mr. Makino's figures as correct, for Japanese boardinghouses on the sugar estates charge but \$6 per month for table board and make a profit at that.

What, then, is the wage complaint about?

Ten men and boys have been released from Molokai, where they had been detained from three to twenty years each, the doctors of the examining board finding them clean. Nineteen more who are believed to be free of the disease are soon to be passed upon. The circumstance is a remarkable one, and as there is no known cure for leprosy, it bears out the old charges that men have been sent, over and over again, to the tomb of the living dead, without justification. It would seem as if they had grounds for damage suits. Happily, under the new regime, the government will take no more chances.

The Advertiser appears to have been well within bounds when it described Crawford's suspension as mere bluff. The man who settles criminal cases for a fee, or who gets money from criminals on those grounds, is still on the list of public employees as reported by the County Attorney on June 1. Evidently that official needs Crawford in his business. Just as soon as the strike is over, Makino may be expected to return there to keep Crawford company. It is a fine, sweet-scented crowd which gathers under the Cathartian wing and finds the place congenial.

The prompt arrest of the Kahuku agitator who thought to abuse the United States mails by using them to intimidate and insult Mr. Sheba, of the Hawaii Shinpo, ought to have a salutary effect upon others engaged in the same cowardly tactics. The delay on the part of the authorities in taking action against Editor Soga encouraged others into the idea that general and malicious attacks upon Sheba were to be overlooked altogether.

May we venture to ask if the published dispatch from the Star's Washington correspondent about Mr. Rath's protest against the nomination for Federal Judge of A. G. M. Robertson reads identically with the dispatch which was actually received? Is it the whole dispatch or only a part of it? The Star is warned that anything it may not say on the subject will be used against it.

It is gratifying to know that the judgment against the Queen, which was obtained in a local court of Washington, D. C., has been set aside. There appears to have been no merit in the English suit, the complainant having settled his claim long ago through a payment made to his attorneys here. Improper service was the cause of the recent decision of the Washington court.

After recovering from the surprise occasioned by the announcement of the Taft policy in regard to trust violators of the law, the people are now beginning to appreciate the fact that after all the best time for the cheering is after the trusts have been proven guilty, not when the trials have been merely begun.

The Sugar Trust, in its defence, indicates that it has a large number of employees who are so eager to have the stockholders make money that they disobey orders and risk going to jail for the sake of saving something for them on water and weighing bills.

Mr. Vivas, as "an attorney," is willing to take a retainer either from the planters or the strikers, though he has not yet signified his willingness, for some reason or other, to accept one from both.

The number of Republican job-chasers who are ready to be Democrats if they can get Charley Rhodes' job is not necessary to catalogue. It would take up too much space.

No obituary notices of Abdul Hamid's death have been yet printed, but that doesn't signify. They are slow about news matters in Turkey.

If the Sierra is going into the excursion business, why not a trip to the Seattle fair and back home via Honolulu?

"Agitators and thugs" have a poetic as well as a pathological relation to editors and bugs.

As soon as Roosevelt reaches the lake country, look out for crocodile yarns.

There is no doubt that the agitators are agitated.

The strike begins to act like a fish out of water.

PAELE CAN NOT SATISFY QUINN

(Continued From Page One.)

every month. I haven't seen none yet," he explained. He further remarked that he didn't want no blue print reports either.

Quinn agreed to expunge the offending paragraph, and the report was adopted.

Troubled Waters on the Oil.

The other discussion of the meeting, in which Quinn had to stand the combined attack of the rest, came over the question of entering into a contract to buy oil for road work for the next eighteen months from Captain Miller, thereby securing a cut from \$1.40 a barrel to \$1.30. The Mayor raised an objection to tying the city up for that long, the rest agreeing with him. Fern also suggested that there might be a better oil than that supplied by Captain Miller. Quinn was annoyed at the opposition. Aylett moved his usual motion of referring the recommendation back to the committee, while Logan suggested that bids for supplying oil should be called for.

Kane snorted. He thought that too much money was being spent on newspaper notices. "Save a dollar on oil and spend two with the paper," he said.

"Well," snapped Logan, "call for bids on postcards then."

The Mayor's remarks about a better oil for street work was based on an offer from another firm to supply oil containing eighty per cent. of asphaltum, the oil now used containing only forty per cent. The heavier oil will spread farther and dry in quicker. This offer was referred to the committee on roads.

Other Reports.

The roads committee submitted reports and recommendations as follows:

That the bridge at the head of Manoa valley is in bad state and must be repaired at a cost of \$1200. That this work be started first thing next month.

That the Riverside baseball league be allowed the use of Aala Park for Sunday afternoons.

That, as no one but the Mayor attended the public meeting to consider the Mayor's plan of changing the Belt Road to go by way of the "Gap" and the Ahimau road instead of through the Heaia rice fields, and as the change would mean an increased expense of \$20,000, that the change be not entertained.

That the Ala Moana road in front of the Marine camp be oiled.

That the Nuuanu Pali road be oiled from the forks into town.

That the City Engineer submit more detailed reports of the cost of road work and the expense of the upkeep of stables.

That W. D. McWayne be appointed poundkeeper for Wahiawa and that a pound be built on available government land.

That David Kalapa be appointed poundkeeper for Koolau, without pay.

That a special appropriation of \$800 be made to improve the Paumotu homestead road.

That the request of the Ahimau Pineapple and Ranch company that the road leading from the beach to Ahimau be repaired be complied with in the early part of the next semiannual period.

That the offer of a lease of the Cummins' quarry be not accepted and that the City Attorney come to an agreement with J. A. Masoom, attorney for the estate, as to the amount of damages done to the Cummins' land.

That \$600 be appropriated after July 1 for the improvement of the Waimanalo road.

That as the report of the April expenses of Road Overseer Paele "is made up in such a manner that it is impossible to make head or tail of it," the same be referred back to him to point out which is the head and which the tail.

That the request of the Manoa people for three additional arc lights be turned down until there is more money in sight.

Damages a Benefit.

A request for a settlement for damages done to the land of the Kapio-lani Estate by the road supervisor was presented. Accompanying this was a letter from the road supervisor stating that the removal of rocks and dirt on certain corners of the Punch-bowl road, as complained about, had

benefited the Estate instead of hurting it.

Pines by the Ton.

H. G. Ginaca, on behalf of the Pupukea settlers, stated in a letter that the transportation of two thousand tons of pineapples would soon commence over the road running from the settlement to the Waima station and asked that the same be repaired. The request was referred to the roads committee.

Willie Still an Official.

A communication from the City Attorney, giving a list of the employees of his office, dated June 1, shows that Willie Crawford is still the official messenger between his office and various sundry places.

"Why, he is under suspension," remarked two or three of the Supervisors, who evinced no other curiosity regarding the appearance of Willie's name. No one asked why he had not yet been fired, showing a carefulness not to pry too closely into the affairs of the one generally credited with being the "boss."

Jail Matter Rests.

Logan reported that his committee had not concluded all its labor regarding the matter of the county jail, asking that he be allowed to report at the next meeting. This was agreed to.

The smoker given at the Bungalow last night for the non-commissioned officers of the National Guard and their guests proved to be a very jolly affair, nearly eight good fellows taking a part in the fun. Among these were twenty-two non-coms from Fort Shafter, their presence marking the good feeling that exists between the regulars and militia of the Territory.

Wigwag—Bjones says that when he is at your house he acts just like one of the family. Henpeckke—Yes, he seems to be just as much afraid of my mother-in-law as I am.—Philadelphia Record.

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